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TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 216

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AUSTRALIA

DOMESTIC SATELLITE PLANS REVIEWED

BK101316 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Mar 82 p 18

[Excerpt] Details of contracts to supply the hardware and software for the domestic communications satellite are expected to be announced shortly by the federal government.

The contracts are estimated to be worth upwards of \$100 million in the long term.

The communications satellite--Aussat--is regarded as the most significant contract for the local electronics industry in years.

The federal government has indicated that there will be the highest degree possible of local participation in the program--ranging from manufacturing and support for the ground segment, through to space tracking and the provision of sophisticated electronic hardware for the space segment.

The first Australian satellite is scheduled to be launched in 1985. Basically, the system has been designed to improve the existing communications network, provide TV and radio services to the outback, increase the capacity for bulk high speed business communications, enable improved health care and communication to remote locations and improve meteorological and scientific data transfer facilities.

The satellite will be positioned 36,000 km, above the Pacific Ocean near Nauru, enabling it to act as a communication relay station between two or more points of its coverage area of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Each solar-powered satellite will have 15 transponders which receive a weak signal from earth and retransmit the amplified signal back to earth in another frequency.

The transponders will be able to handle one television program and up to three radio programs each. They also have the capacity to handle up to 1,000 voice channels or 50 million "bits" of information a second.

Initially the system will provide a national beam covering the whole country and an additional four, more powerful, spot beams. Three will cover western Australia, south Australia, the northern territory and Queensland. The fourth will cover NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

A fifth 'spot' beam will serve Papua New Guinea.

Telecom will use the satellite to improve ISD and STD [subscriber trunk dialing] services to areas not currently serviced by its ground microwave system. The system will also be used to provide extra trunk capacity and for emergency services.

But the service likely to have the most impact, particularly in the outback areas, will be HACBSS--the Homestead and Community Broadcasting Satellite Service.

Initially the service will provide one ABC [Australian Broadcasting Commission] TV channel and up to three ABC radio channels. It will also have the capacity to provide a second commercial channel and radio service. Programs will be transmitted to the satellite from major earth stations in all capital cities except Melbourne.

CSO: 5500/2219

NEW EMS NET INCLUDES TELETYPE, TELEX SYSTEMS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Mar 82 p 19

[Article by Douglas Moore]

[Text]

DATAPoint Corp has released an enhanced Electronic Message System network controller, which extends the EMS range for IEOS (Integrated Electronic Office System) users to Teletype stations and telex networks.

"Now any EMS user at any Datapoint work station can have transparent access to telex and Teletype," a company spokesman said.

Datapoint's EMS provides a fast, easy means of transmitting messages, documents or text files from one address to another electronically.

Additionally, the network controller could operate independently from IEOS, letting telex and Teletype users communicate with each other using the same protocol conversion, automatic routing, delivery to multiple addresses, and management reporting capabilities inherent in the IEOS-based operation, he said.

"The turnkey network controller can support from one to 1000 addresses (mailstops).

"Transmission speeds range from 50 to 4800 bits per second."

The network controller can be customised to suit a variety of customer applications.

The minimum configuration requires one Datapoint 6000 series processor with 128K bytes of memory, a disc storage device and a local printer.

Disc storage is needed for terminal control, message distribution, traffic routing, path selection, format conversion and transmission cost assignment.

Upon receiving mail for routing to a particular mailstop, the network controller checks database information for routing conditions.

Through automatic protocol conversion, which is transparent to the user, a message which originates at a Teletype machine destined for a telex mailstop is automatically converted at time of delivery to the telex format, as Teletype and telex character sets are not compatible.

"The same holds for communication to and from local and remote Datapoint integrated electronic office work stations."

The automatic dialling capability of the network controller saves time for the user: "For a message that is to be delivered to a number of destinations, the operator keys it in once and simply sends it to the network controller."

"The controller automatically dials the telephone number for each receiving mailstop, redialling if necessary to make the connection and deliver the message."

The network controller also features message retrieval, which uses the mass storage message queues to obtain previously delivered sequentially numbered message traffic; auto-intercept message routing, which deposits messages that the network controller is unable to deliver at a user-designated mailstop; and accounting files, which uses report programs to record and analyse the flow and costs of message traffic processed by the network controller.

Datapoint has also announced

the addition of message services to the word processing software which operates on Datapoint 1550 small business computers.

A spokesman said that with the new software, IEOS 1.4, a standalone Datapoint 1550 could become an Integrated Electronic Office System processor, capable of data processing, word processing and electronic message services at a single work station.

"This multi-function system starts from under \$10,000."

"The IECS software — the same software that runs on larger Datapoint processors and in an ARC (attached resource computer) local network — allows a user to compose memos, documents or other text, and prepare and send them via Electronic Message Services to other standalone systems, to processors on an ARC-local network, or to Teletype and telex addresses."

Object code, text files and data files prepared in data processing on one 1550 system could be sent to another remote location or to a central ARC network.

Conversely, documents, object code, text and data files prepared in a home office local network could be distributed via EMS to remote 1550 sites which were using the new IEOS software.

The 1550 could also be used to prepare messages for distribution to Teletype and telex addresses.

"A message prepared on the 1550 is picked up by the EMS network controller, automatically converted to the appropriate format, and distributed."

Delivery priorities and routing instructions could be assigned to control the distribution of each message.

ADVANCE EXECUTIVE CLAIMS LOCAL CAPITAL EXISTS FOR TECHNOLOGY

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Mar 82 p 26

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell]

[Text]

VENTURE capital to start up high technology companies can be found in Australia, and the hearsay that financial backing is impossible to obtain has largely been established by businessmen.

This has been claimed by a top executive of one of the country's best known indigenous computer companies.

The financial director of Canberra-based Information Electronics, Mr Brian Crowley, told a recent conference on the availability of venture capital in Australia that risk capital could be found — but "no one said it was easy".

The conference on venture capital and technological innovation was called by the Australia-New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) so that business leaders, technology experts, bankers and senior Government officials could put their views on the topic.

Venture capital funding has assumed critical importance as new industries and processes, many of which could be profitable on a small scale, come within the scope of Australian scientists and entrepreneurs.

Fields such as biotechnology have been heavily supported by American stock exchanges, but there has

been widespread criticism of the Australian banking system's inability to spot and back promising local science and technology projects despite the international standing of the scientific community here.

Mr Crowley agreed that gaining access to funds was "just about the most difficult thing a businessman faces" but stressed that it was not impossible — as was proved by the history of Information Electronics.

There was a widespread acceptance that venture finance was "all but non-existent".

"I believe that in a lot of cases businessmen establish the myth themselves," he said.

"Poorly planned approaches, lack of a well thought out and documented plan, and a general lack of professionalism would account for a majority of failures for those seeking venture finance."

The simple dilemma was that banks were "not into venture finance" and businessmen knew there was little or no security in venture finance propositions.

But venture capital was available and had been attracted to Information Electronics by its founder, Mr Malcolm Macaulay, after an initial, unsuccessful attempt

to win backing from brokers.

The first share listing of the company, in early 1969, was successful because of a campaign by Mr Macaulay, who had "conditioned" the financial press and the public to accept his belief that "Australia should have its own computer company".

Clever preparation of the marketplace for the first Information Electronics share flotation had been matched in four subsequent "forays into the venture capital marketplace", which had raised a cumulative total of \$2,578,000.

More conventional borrowing techniques had also been used and the remarkable performance of the company's executives in finding support was thrown into light by the fact that Information Electronics had lost money in all but two years since its foundation.

"At no time during its entire history have the funds of the shareholders of the company been preserved intact," Mr Crowley said.

The performance of the company had not been affected by lack of capital, as far more money had been raised than had ever been

anticipated as a reasonable requirement.

TRANSITION

He suggested there were several contributing factors behind the poor figures recorded by Information Electronics, including the commercial failure of its first product, the University of NSW's Intergraphic Computer, made under licence.

A switch by IE to the manufacture of terminals had eventually achieved good sales, but the company nevertheless turned to the Australian Industrial Development Corporation for assistance.

AIDC had then announced that the company was "suffering from the pressures of success", and a joint enterprise between IE and AIDC resulted in two "highly profitable" years with a net profit of more than \$500,000.

Eventually problems arose as it became impossible for the company to sustain "the ever-increasing requirements to produce more terminals".

"Delivery times slipped, customers became disenchanted and others fell away — IE was unable to make the transition from a small research and develop-

ment production company to a relatively large-scale manufacturing company," Mr Crowley said.

In 1977 Fidelity Credit Corp purchased a major shareholding in IE for less than \$15,000 total outlay.

But this produced "management by cash injection" and funds were poured in "without coming to grips with the basic problems".

Mr Crowley said that IE was now trading under a scheme of arrangement, had shown a return to profitability and was attempting to reclaim its former 40 per cent share of the terminal market.

"I believe all this demonstrates that venture capital is available, but it highlights all those other problems associated with getting a new venture off the ground.

"The problems are not over when the finance has been obtained — rather they are just beginning," he said.

If business capital was difficult to obtain, the actual process of launching the new venture was even harder.

"If, so far, you have been unable to raise the capital, could I suggest you reappraise your deal," he told the conference.

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

RESOURCES COMPUTER COMMITTEE--The Australian Computer Society has formed a new national committee on Computers and Related Technologies in Earth Resources (CRATER). The national president of the ACS, Mr Ashley Coldsworthy, said this was a particularly relevant area of interest in Australia with its huge mineral and mining industries. CRATER, formed on the initiative of the Queensland branch of the ACS, would be concerned with research developments and applications in a variety of fields related to earth resource industries, he said. Graphics, robotics and lasers were among the high technologies being used in the mineral and mining industries. "A deeper look into the field reveals application areas that most people in the computer field would not have even heard of. "Laser meteorology, laser interferometry, fibre optic sensors, and so on give a good illustration of the leading-edge technology being used." The new committee is headed by Ian Moore of Queensland's Geological Survey Department. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN 11 English 9 Mar 82 p 27]

CSO: 5500/7531

CONFLICTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 1 Apr 82 pp 1, 9

[Text] NEW DELHI March 31.—The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was today placed in an odd situation with a dual recommendation, one from the Press Commission and the other from the committee of officers on how many news agencies there should be and how many of them should be patronised by the Government media, All-India Radio and Doordarshan.

The Press Commission has categorically supported the view that there should be two competing English language news agencies and supported the idea that the Press Trust of India and the United News of India, offering competing service, be left undisturbed.

On the language news agencies, the Press Commission has virtually suggested that they be wound up since the "two Indian language agencies were inadequate, both quantitatively and qualitatively".

Instead, it suggested that one of the two English news agencies should provide an efficient news service in regional languages.

But now the committee of officers' suggestions are contrary to the Press Commission's.

According to a statement made by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Parliament yesterday, the committee of officers has suggested that AIR should depend on one single English news agency and one language news agency for its news bulletins.

The committee of officers has, therefore, been very specific in saying that there should be two agencies in the country — one English and the other a language agency.

The subsistence of the two English agencies and two language news agencies depend almost entirely on the monthly remuneration received from All-India Radio and Doordarshan. PTI gets Rs 250,000 per month. UNI Rs 193,000 Hindustan Samachar Rs 40,300 and Samachar Bharati Rs 35,500 a month.

The committee of officers also

suggested that AIR should be represented on the board of directors of the news agencies to which it subscribed. This was essential, it said, since as a single unit, AIR accounted for slightly higher than one-third of the subscription money realised by the news agencies from all the daily newspapers.

The committee, however, has suggested that the three-year formula between the Government media and the news agencies could be reconsidered if the Press Commission so recommends. The Government is now awaiting the receipt of the Press Commission's report which is due on Monday.

It was to have been submitted today, according to Press Commission sources, the bulky report will be signed by its 13 members on Saturday. The document will then be presented to the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by the commission's secretary on Monday.

The delay has been caused by the copying of the work, chapter by chapter, and being sent to each member for approval.

INDIA

BRIEFS

TV RELAY--All Doordarshan Kendras [television stations] in the country will soon start telecasting a national program daily. This will be done through Insat 1A and microwave links. The 90 minute program will be relayed from Delhi and telecast simultaneously from other centers from 2100 [1530 GMT]. Initially it will be introduced on Delhi-Mussoorie, Bombay-Pune-Bangalore and Madras stations from 1 June. [Text] [BK151617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 82]

NEWS AGENCY EXCHANGE--The news agency Samachar Bharati will exchange news with a Third World news agency, Inter Press Service. An agreement to this effect was signed with the two agencies in Rome today. They will use the direct satellite link for exchanging news. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 82 BK]

RADIO SERVICES--All India Radio plans to introduce a 3-tier broadcasting system--the national channel, regional stations and local stations. A 1,000-kilowatt medium wave transmitter is being set up in Nagpur for the national channel. The existing regional transmitters will form the middle tier and six local stations to be set up to provide community service for specific areas. This was stated in the annual report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It says the external service broadcasts are also being strengthened. Special plan has been prepared for extension of All India Radio services in the northeastern region. The TV coverages were also being extended substantially. [Text] [BK201717 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2218

BRIEFS

NEW PALAPA SATELLITES--Two Palapa satellites, the B1 and B2, will be launched next year to take over the operations of the A1 and A2 Palapa satellites, whose 7-year operations are due to end. The executive director of the telecommunications corporation, Wily Munandir, said in Bandung that the B1 Palapa satellite will be launched in February 1983 and the B2 Palapa satellite in May the same year. He said that careful and early planning and preparations for the replacement of the Palapa satellites were highly necessary in view of the increasing utilization of this system. Apart from that, it was also because of the growing needs in the future with the rapid satellite technology. The B type Palapa satellite will have a capacity of 24 transponders. Its transmission power will also be bigger and will be able to meet the transmission needs up to 1990 to cover even small towns. [Text] [BK231603 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/5773

BRIEFS

TELEVISION STATION--Ulaanbaatar, 14 Apr (MONTSAME)--An "Ekran-KR" television station built by Soviet specialists began operation in Omnogobi Aymag a few days ago. Now livestock breeders and miners in Hanhongor Somon and the Taban Tologoy open-cut coal mine will regularly receive Mongolian television programs and see international news in Soviet "Orbita" television programs. [Text] [OW191113 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1508 GMT 14 Apr 82 OW]

CSO: 5500/2218

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE TRUNK SERVICE--Kathmandu, April 15--Microwave trunk service has been started from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj and Surkhet from yesterday, reports RSS. From now onwards direct telephone connection will be possible between Nepalgunj and Surkhet and any other part of the country. Calls can also be made to any part of the world from any place of the country which has microwave service. Teleprinter link will also be established shortly between the two places, according to Nepal Telecommunications Corporation. Previously it was possible to call Nepalgunj and Surkhet through the wireless at certain fixed hours but henceforth it will be possible to contact the two places at all times as a result of the introduction of the microwave service. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 16 Apr 82 p 6]

CSO: 5500/5769

BRIEFS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT--Islamabad, April 7--The government will launch a new project, worth 287 million dollars to improve national telecommunications service in collaboration with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Federal Republic of Germany and German suppliers and Japan. The project will improve the standards of service through out the existing telecommunications network and will extend facilities to the new areas besides meeting some demands in areas now provided with facilities. The project will be carried out by the Pakistan Telegraph and Telephone Department and will consist of local network facilities for an additional 52,000 subscribers, toll-ticketing equipment for at least two lakh lines and an increase of about 2,000 circuits on existing subscriber long distance dialing routes. A new 1,800 channel microwave system will be installed and subsidiary routes expanded through the provision of an additional 500 circuits to be achieved largely through the construction of 200 new small exchanges. Additional 300 public call offices will also be established in rural areas under the project. An earth station and a new international gateway exchange will be set up at Islamabad to serve the northern part of the country coupled with installation of a coaxial cable from Lahore to Wagah to facilitate 1,900 additional subscribers to telex and telegraph.--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Apr 82 p 3]

CSO: 5500/5768

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

ANSHAN TV TOWER--Anshan municipality is building a television tower which, after completion by the end of this year, will be nearly 183 meters tall. So far some 70 meters of the main part of the tower have been completed. After completion, areas from Haicheng in the south to Liaoyang in the north will be able to receive Anshan television station programs. [Text]
[SK151010 Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT
14 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2218

MORE PHONES FOR RURAL AREAS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 82 p 2

[Text]

THE MINISTRY of Transportation and Communications said yesterday each town in the country should have at least seven telephones to spur economic development and promote the delivery of government services to the people in the rural areas.

Transport and Communications Minister Jose P. Dans Jr. said the present telephone density in the country is only nine telephones for every 1,000 people.

What aggravates the problem, Dans said, is that most of the telephones are in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod and other cities. In the rural areas, Dans said, there is only one telephone for every 400 persons.

...

A P7.6 BILLION five-year telecommunications development program aims to increase telephone density to 17 per 1,000 people, Dans said. The program aims to increase the number of main telephones in the country to about one million. There are only 430,000 main telephones in the country now.

In addition to the program, the United Nations Development Plan

(UNDP) has also allotted \$1 million for an on-going study on the telecommunications needs of the country, Dans said.

The study, Dans said, is now halfway through and is aimed at developing means of organization and control within the telecommunications industry and the development of a master plan for a national telecommunications network.

...

WITH AN efficient nationwide telecommunications system of telephones, telegraph and telex, Dans said, the government can immediately cope with situations in various areas in the country like in the case of natural calamities.

In addition, Dans said, if all towns were linked to the telecommunications network, farmers can sell their produce at better prices since it would be easy to compare prices with other areas.

Dans said the big disparity in the price of produce from the farm gate to the market is caused by the farmers' ignorance on the real value of their produce. Thus, they fall prey to middlemen who take advantage of the situation.

FUNDS FOR VISAYAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Apr 82 p 7

[Text]

CEBU CITY - A P2.7-billion project that would revolutionize the telecommunications network in the Central and Western Visayas has been proposed to be implemented in five years starting 1983.

The project of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication calls for the use of high density PCM (pulse code modulated) digital technology in the telephone, telegraph, telex, data processing and facsimile services of the Bureau of Telecommunications (BUTEL).

This would cover the Central Visayas provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor and the Western Visayas provinces of Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Aklan and Capiz.

UNDER the proposal of the ministry, digital machines will be installed in the two regions through the telecommunications systems of the Butel to effect a faster flow of communications.

The modern technology will improve the analog system now used by Butel.

According to the Butel regional office here, the project aims to provide a widespread telecommunications facilities both in rural and urban centers in the two regions so as to stimulate greater productivity and enhance economic development.

CSO: 5500/5770

GOVERNMENT READY TO EXCHANGE MAIL

SK220532 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Apr 82 pp 4, 5

[Text] The modernization of communications services continues, with emphasis on improving postal services this year.

The government is even ready to exchange mail with North Korea, if the Pyongyang regime in the north accepts the Republic of Korea proposal for such an exchange.

Ministry of Communications officials say the communications services will be so improved that they can contribute to the successful holding of the olympics in Seoul in 1988. Seoul was awarded the games in an International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting held in Baden-Baden, West Germany, last September.

At least one more ground station is expected to be built and ready for use in satellite relay communications by the time of the 1988 olympics. Two such ground stations are now in operation.

The telephone service will continue to be improved this year. As part of the effort, 1,120,000 lines will be newly added to the telephone circuits in the nation's cities. Officials say preparations are under way to develop a facsimile line system.

Television programs may be aired beginning next year using a multiplevoice broadcasting method, officials say.

Efforts will continue this year to solve the television reception troubles experienced in some areas of the country, according to them. And by 1986, the problem should be solved completely.

Following are the features of the communications improvements already implemented earlier this year or planned for implementation during the rest of this year.

In populous areas, interested people will be allowed to offer postal services in department stores, markets, hotels and apartment complexes with licenses from the ministry. Those managing the services will be given a salary from the government.

Officials say licensing civilians to offer postal services will help the government economize on its budget.

The postal service system for handling civil requests for licenses and certificates is now used by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Twenty-seven more government ministries and agencies are expected to use the system beginning July 1.

Under the system, people can mail their civil requests to involved government offices. The licenses or certificates requested will be sent to the requesters through the postal service by the involved government offices. This means people need not go to the government offices to submit their request and to receive the requested licenses or certificates.

The domestic speedpost service was expanded two days ago to include 11 more cities. Until then, 13 cities had benefited from the service since it was inaugurated last October.

Letters, business documents and samples of drafts, books and commercial advertisements are bundled for speedy delivery to their destination under the service. Such items, discluding letters, can also be sent by parcel post under the same service.

Items arriving at a post office by speedpost during the morning will be delivered to their destinations during the afternoon of the same day. Items accepted at a post office during the afternoon for speedpost delivery will reach their destinations during the morning of the next day.

Korea also has international speedpost operations with foreign countries.

The International Postal Insurance Service will also be expanded. Under this service, such items as jewels and securities will be insured against missing or damage during transit.

Postage stamps printed in six colors are expected to be issued beginning in June for the first time in the country. Necessary printing equipment is to be imported next year.

The International Money Order Service will be expanded. By the end of this year, the country is expected to offer this service in 19 foreign areas. Korea is now operating the service with 15 foreign countries.

The domestic money order service will be gradually expanded. Using an on-line system for the service is being considered.

A savings account can now be opened at post offices. The account service was initiated last February 1. The deposit in an account can be withdrawn on advance notice. A similar savings account system is to be inaugurated in December exclusively for farmers and industrial workers.

Postcards carrying business advertisements may be sold in the future. Businesses will have to pay a fee for putting their advertisements on postcards. Some of the revenue from these fees will be used to produce postcards, officials say.

Telephones will be supplied to new subscribers. Officials estimate that the number of telephone owners will increase to 10.4 per 100 people by the end of this year. The rate was 8.9 at the end of last year.

Intercity telephone systems involving operators have been gradually replaced by direct dial operations.

More foreign countries soon will be able to be called by direct dialing. Beginning next year, direct dial calls to 24 countries, including Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and West Germany, will be possible, officials say.

They say more than 1,000 telephoneless primary schools in provincial areas will be supplied with telephones by the end of this year. Some of the schools are in remote areas and on islands.

A data communications corporation is expected to be inaugurated in Seoul soon, possibly next week. Preparations have almost been completed for the inauguration. The corporation is to be operated with a capital of 5,980 million won. The capital investment will include 2 billion won from the Korea Telecommunication Authority. The rest will come from 25 private companies.

CSO: 5500/2219

BRIEFS

BEN TRE WIRED RADIO STATIONS--Ben Tre Province now has more than 40 basic wired radio stations with 47 public and almost 700 family loudspeakers. Many villages, subwards, schools and hospitals have used this radio network to propagate the party's lines and policies. The province has also held courses to improve quality of information cadres before assigning them to various localities. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 14 Apr 82 BK]

TELEPHONE LINK WITH MOSCOW--The Posts and Telegraph General Department recently installed two international telephone lines linking Hanoi with Vientiane and Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City with Moscow. The department also installed four additional international telex machines, thus bringing Vietnam's total telex communications lines to 154 countries. [BK211215 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Apr 82 BK]

CSO: 5500/5773

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO STATION—San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The radio station Radio Cultural was dedicated today in Turrialba Canton, 60 km southwest of San Jose. Phillip Von Liechtenstein, the prince of Liechtenstein, attended the ceremony in his capacity as president of the Institute for the Development of Adult Education in America. The institute has been promoting the establishment of a cultural radio network that would transmit in both Spanish and in various Indian dialects. [PA260337 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2204 GMT 24 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2212

U.S. POLICY ON 'RADIO MARTI' CRITICIZED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Feb 82 p 24

[Article by Victorio M. Copa: "Radio Lies"]

[Text] The United States' decision to set up a radio station to broadcast diversionary radio programs to Cuba is a further act of interference in the internal affairs of the largest island of the West Indies.

President Ronald Reagan's advisers on national security said that the installation--which in principle will be known as "Radio Jose Marti"--is supposedly intended to report to the Cuban people about what their own government is doing."

"After all, the Cuban people deserve to get more thorough information on conditions in the country and on the activities of (President Fidel) Castro's regime," U.S. officials are reported saying.

State Department experts have failed to comment on how this measure will affect talks between the two countries on technical problems in the sphere of broadcasting.

Representatives of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT) and of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) met in April 1981, alternately in Havana and Washington, to study ways of avoiding interferences in their respective broadcast channels.

The Reagan administration has asked Congress for \$10 million worth of appropriations for 1982 to set up the anti-Cuban broadcasting station while it is modernizing existing facilities in Florida and using the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and terrorist groups of Cuban nationals to carry out subversive activities.

U.S. Government officials have noted that this radio station scheduled to broadcast programs in Spanish on the medium wave (AM) is similar to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, operated by the CIA and the Pentagon and beamed to the Soviet Union and to countries of the socialist community.

President Reagan's own national security adviser insists in saying that "the Cuban people are entitled to know about what is happening in their country and that to achieve this end, the United States will use all available means."

Diplomatic and journalistic circles in Havana agree that this decision of the Republican administration will institutionalize the radio and propaganda campaign conducted since 1959 by the United States against Cuba.

In July of last year, the U.S. magazine POPULAR ELECTRONICS disclosed that several radio stations are broadcasting against Cuba out of U.S. territory, mainly from the state of Florida.

According to the report, these stations broadcast regular programs without interference from the federal authorities.

POPULAR ELECTRONICS says that among those stations are Radio Trincherá [Radio Trench], the Voice of Independence and Democratic Cuba, the Christian Voice of Cuba, the Progressive Youth of Cuba, the Voice of Alfa 66, Radio Abdala and the Cuban Freedom Radio.

According to the U.S. magazine, there is also a professional-level radio station operating under the name of Radio Free Cuba and that its sponsors claim that it represents the "Christian Democratic Movement of Cuba."

In this new ideological warfare directed against Cuba, the CIA is reported to be attempting to bring together in Radio Jose Martí all counterrevolutionary elements who are already working for pirate stations broadcasting from U.S. territory.

Towards the end of 1981, government officials in Washington indicated that the location of the new stations was yet to be selected but they mentioned several locations in the United States--Florida being one of the possibilities--or in islands of the Caribbean.

During the CIA-organized mercenary invasion of Cuba in Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs) in 1961, that intelligence agency set up a pirate station on Swan Island, off the Central American coast.

The Cuban Center for Martí Studies has denounced the setting up of Radio Jose Martí as being what amounts to a declaration of radio war against the largest island of the West Indies and as a strange peacetime development.

"It proves," the center added, "the absurd and wild hatred which the incorruptible example of Cuba inspired in U.S. rulers."

"While it is true that U.S. broadcasts can reach Cuba, Cuban broadcasts can also get through to the United States and they will not be conveying false and reactionary messages but the voice of truth," the center points out.

It notes that the establishment of this radio station was included in the report issued by the so-called Santa Fe Committee, platform of the current U.S. administration, also containing the very strong threat that "should propaganda fail, a war of liberation must be launched against (Fidel) Castro."

When the president of the Council of State, Fidel Castro, warned the Cuban people that the United States will substantially step up subversive activities against the island, he strongly criticized the setting up of this radio station.

When the president of the Council of State, Fidel Castro, warned the Cuban people that the United States will substantially step up subversive activities against the island, he strongly criticized the setting up of this radio station.

"One must be utterly cynical, immoral and brazen to propose the idea of setting up on U.S. territory a radio station to fight the revolution, to attempt to subvert and destabilize the revolution," the Cuban leader said.

He underlined that, naturally, such a move will not go unanswered and noted that the Cubans will assert their right to use the names of genuine U.S. patriots such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

8796

CSO: 5500/2189

U.S. TRYING TO 'CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA'

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 11 Mar 82 p 19

[Commentary by Carlos Mora Herman: "Who Controls the News Media?"]

[Text] The second meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC) ended on 26 January in Acapulco, Mexico, without pain or pleasure.

Two lines of thoughts clashed at the Acapulco meeting.

One, championed by the United States and supported by its allies, is opposed to anything which may affect the monopoly of communications and of transnational news agencies.

The other, advocated by the UNESCO and backed by countries of the Third World, proposes the establishment of a new world information order (NWIO) to liberate developing countries from that monopoly and to allow large masses of people a greater participation in the media.

The International Program for the Development of Communications was set up in 1980 to channel aid projects, to improve radio and television services, the press and news agencies in underdeveloped countries.

The program itself was inspired by a resolution adopted in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on that same year of 1980, which stated that it was necessary to establish a new information order on a world scale.

The immediate effect was that the United States launched a barrage of propaganda against UNESCO making use of its exclusive control of the Western news media in the field of information and it accused that organization of wanting to turn the news media over to government control and do away with freedom of the press.

UNESCO Director General Amadou Mathar M'Bow, speaking on behalf of that organization, has repeatedly said that the only purpose of the new world information order is to expand the flow of information to reach more countries.

The proposal to create the International Program for the Development of Communications came from the United States in 1979 but now, in Acapulco, it is that same country which has repeatedly refused to contribute funds to

launch the proposed projects claiming that they threaten press freedom, a freedom which, as denounced again in Acapulco, is the freedom of those who own the news media and of the transnational news agencies.

In fact, since the end of World War II, the countries of what is known as the Third World have been trying to get their voices heard and to have their interests taken into consideration.

These countries believe in the new world information order and want it but the United States is bent on seeing hidden motives and nonexistent plots in the UNESCO's efforts to turn the wishes of the emerging countries into a reality.

The group of 35 countries representing different political and economic leanings ranging from Saudi Arabia, Norway, Holland, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia to the United States, China, the FRG and Japan as well as Cuba, the GDR, the USSR and South Yemen, met in Acapulco at UNESCO's request to promote the International Program for the Development of Communications.

Representatives of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) and of the World Institute for the Freedom of the Press (Freedom House)--both organizations made up of owners of mass media organizations in Western developed countries--also presented their views at that meeting.

The IAPA, for instance, wants reassurances that government news agencies will not interfere with private organizations. Freedom House concurs on this point.

The truth of the matter is that the developing countries' ideas on the democratization of communications and on the decolonization of information undermine the communications monopolies and the transnational news agencies.

According to Rafael Roncagliolo of Peru, the International Program for the Development of Communications offers possibilities of substantially contributing to democratize the flow of information, both on a national and international level, by reaffirming the cultural sovereignty of nations, by spreading creative forms of horizontal cooperation and by preventing exclusively bilateral forms of assistance often leading to new forms of neocolonialism.

In Acapulco, the nations of what is known as the Third World have accused again the industrialized countries of controlling the news media, of concealing the real situation in underdeveloped countries and of being opposed to the new world information order.

The United States, Japan and the FRG in particular, said at the Acapulco meeting that they were prepared to help privately-owned news organizations and to encourage private investment through bilateral agreements with various countries.

These three countries, which are the major producers of technology in the field of communications, have practically dropped out of the International Program for the Development of Communications.

In Acapulco, the administration of President Ronald Reagan, showed its inclination to favor bilateral relations over multilateral relations and to give preferential treatment in its development programs mainly to the private initiative.

At the root of this view lies the U.S. purpose of increasing the influence of transnational news organizations and the monopoly over communications in an attempt to control the communications requirements of Africa, Asia and Latin America which represent vast markets that can be exploited.

8796

CSO: 5500/2189

BRIEFS

NEW TELEPHONE LINES--An agreement was signed at the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Ministry today between the ministry and the Italian company (Fishi Standar I.T.T.) to install four mobile telephone exchanges in the region of Matrah al-Kubra with a capacity of 4,000 new lines to reduce the pressure on the existing exchange. The project will cost 1,5487,000 [as printed] Omani riyals and will be completed within 6 months. [Text]
[GF171525 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 82 GF]

CSO: 5500/2218

QATAR

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION CONTRACT—Doha, 18 Apr (WAKH)—A contract to construct a second ground station, Doha II, for satellite communications which will function with the satellite serving the Atlantic Ocean region was signed today. The 10-million dollar contract was signed with an Italian company by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Suwaydi, Qatari minister of transportation and communication. The station will be operational 6 months from the date of signing. The station will connect Qatar telephonically with the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe and West Africa. The station will operate on two frequencies. The capacity of each frequency will be 312 television channels, in addition to transmission and reception of television programs to and from the Atlantic Ocean region. Moreover, the station will provide for the exchange of cable and telex services and information. [Text] [GF181729 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Apr 82]

CSO: 5500/2218

NEW SOLAR-POWERED MICROWAVE RELAY OPENED

Djibouti LA NATION in French 4 Mar 82 p 3

[Article: "A New Stage Is Entered in Telecommunications; Djibouti and Ethiopia Are Linked by an Automatic Network"]

[Text] Since the opening of service in July 1980 of a land-based station permitting telephone and telex communications by satellite and computer with France--and very significantly improving even the international communications carried through manual switchboards, the Post and Telecommunications Office, eager to participate actively in the country's extension of its influence and to satisfy the national needs, has been busy seeking the most effective and rapid methods of increasing exchanges with neighboring countries by improving the quality of telecommunications.

Thus, a study for a large regional project called the "Medarabtel Project," undertaken over 1 year ago with the participation of the Post and Telecommunications Office, has been completed, and when it shortly enters the stage of reality it should provide a complete automatic system connecting with all the Arab countries and Ethiopia.

However, as the technical completion of this vast project will take several years, it has been possible to reach an intermediate solution that will permit the exchange of telephone and telegraph communications with Ethiopia on a 24-hour basis by means of an automatic network. Until now, [these communications] have gone over the Djibouti-Ethiopian railroad's carrier current to Dire-Dawa and [thence] by radio to Addis-Ababa, and they could be connected simultaneously only by means of a single, manually operated network.

A new step has just been taken, since after a short trial period (2 weeks) proved conclusive, the official inauguration of the new automatic connection with the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia took place on 1 March 1982.

To do this, a microwave relay system was established linking the Djibouti telephone center with the Ethiopian network via Deloncle Peak and Assab.

The difficulty in achieving this lay first of all in determining a relay point between Djibouti and Assab high enough to overcome any obstacles. Deloncle Peak was selected because of its geographical location in the north of the

country, 3 kilometers from Day and 160 kilometers from Assab, and its altitude of 1,780 meters.

As the selected location had no means of access, the setting up of a large amount of power equipment, towers, antennas, and radios became a major problem.

In fact, covering a range of 160 kilometers by microwave is rather unusual and required setting up two 25-meter-high, anchored, triangular towers capable of supporting a 4-meter diameter parabola facing Assab and two Yagi antennae directed toward Djibouti, and installing two buildings in a shelter, each enclosing two transmitters and two radio receivers powered by four groups of 12 batteries with a total capacity of 560 amperes/hour through a voltage regulator, the batteries themselves powered by four solar panels.

All of this equipment, which was brought to the site from Day by several helicopter teams, was installed by technicians from the Post and Telecommunications Office, under the supervision of an expert from French Cable and Radio. It occupies a fenced area of 3,000-square-meters and is under constant surveillance.

Simultaneously, to improve the quality of communications using space diversity, two Yagi antennae were installed on a 40-meter tower in Djibouti. It was also necessary to install two transmitter receivers and connectors to permit adaptation of our network to the Ethiopian network.

Now the Republic of Djibouti is connected to the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia through a 24-channel network, with 12 channels currently in operation.

The cost of this large project, which required 10 months of intensive work under conditions that were often difficult and dangerous, was 100 million Djibouti francs, with the 90 percent owed by the Djibouti Republic financed by the Post and Telecommunications Office.

The effort has been rewarded by the satisfaction of having created a new link with a friendly country which will permit the development of political, economic, and social relations. In any case, this is the hope and ambition of the Post and Telecommunications Office.

The activity of this public entity, which seeks both to be permanent and to develop continually, is now directed toward the construction of an international relay center essential to the exchange of completely automatic communications with the rest of the world.

But first of all, a date has been set for the month of May for a new inauguration: the permanent national microwave network.

9693

CSO: 5500/5716

BRIEFS

TV EQUIPMENT PURCHASE--Seychelles took a technical step closer to the age of the television recently when Information Department Chief Engineer, James Palmyre spent six weeks in England. Seychelles is buying the television equipment for its national network from Sony Broadcasting Ltd in England, the company's distributor of studio and other television production equipment for Europe and Africa. Mr. Palmyre told Seychelles Agence Presse after his return on Sunday that in England he had checked the equipment to be bought and their adaptation for use here. These included master control room and electronic news gathering (E.N.G.) equipment and a complete two-camera outside broadcast van which is expected to arrive in Seychelles at the end of April. Mr. Palmyre received some help from the British Broadcasting Corporation in specting and adapting the T.V. van. During his six weeks in England, Mr. Palmyre also followed a three-weeks course on the operation of the equipment. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 30 Mar 82 pp 1, 2]

CSO: 5500/5767

SUCCESS OF RADIO BALLOON EXPERIMENT REPORTED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 17 Apr 82 p 11

[Text] A RADIO balloon recently launched by South African radio amateurs was a huge success and paved the way to further development in the area of radio amateur communications satellites.

Members of the Southern African Amateur Satellite Association (SA AMSAT), the body responsible for the promotion of space communication, are proud of their achievements with their RA-CAR project.

Three radio transmitters were lifted to a height of 12km by four weather balloons.

Two of the units were radio beacons: one for

recovery purposes and another for sending telemetry information such as pressure, temperature and battery voltage.

The third transmitter was a transponder, a piece of apparatus designed to receive a very high frequency radio signal, amplify it and transmit it back on another frequency.

Through such a transponder, long-distances can be covered using VHF and ultra high frequencies.

The complete system was developed by members of SA AMSAT and was largely sponsored

by donations from the electronics industry.

The only disappointment, according to the project leader, Mr Dave Woodhall, was that weather conditions prevented the recovery of the unit when it landed by parachute somewhere between Frankfurt and Newcastle.

The project involved amateurs all over South Africa and as far north as Salisbury in Zimbabwe.

CSO: 5500/5766

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

RAILWAYS INSTALL MICROWAVE--The National Railways of Zimbabwe is to replace its overhead telephone route on the Harare-Dabuka line with a microwave system, an NRZ spokesman in Bulawayo said yesterday. He said: "Due to the interference caused by the AC electrification system, the overhead telephone route is to be removed and replaced by a radio microwave system. He said towers are being constructed at eight sites to carry the microwave aerials. "The microwave system will not only carry the railway telephone links but will also carry the signals required for the control of all trains on the Gweru to Lochinvar section of the railway line." [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 23 Apr 82 p 3]

CSO: 5500/5772

'PRAVDA' REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION COOPERATION

LD120904 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2130 GMT 11 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)--On 1 February the member countries of the international television union "Intervision" [Intervideniye] began a regular exchange of news via the retransmitter of a "Gorizont" series satellite. The satellite, which carries the registration index "Statsionar," works within the "Intersputnik" Space Communications System, says the newspaper PRAVDA.

The fruits of successful cooperation in television broadcasting and satellite communications, the article says, can be seen in particular in the "Vremya" program of USSR Central Television. The latest information on events in the fraternal countries is chosen for it. "There are quite a few people in the West who love arguing about the 'free exchange of ideas and information,'" stressed G. Yushkyavichyus, deputy chairman of Goseleradio, in conversation with a correspondent of the newspaper. "But what are things actually like? Let's just take 'Eurovision,' the television union of Western Europe. There is a curious statistic. Last year it transmitted 6,410 items to 'Intervision,' of which the television organizations of the socialist countries used 5,440. At the same time, out of the 5,395 items offered by 'Intervision,' 'Eurovision' accepted only...415."

The experience of a number of socialist countries, as well as Finland, connected by "intervision," the article points out, convincingly demonstrates that television has the job of promoting the creation of a climate of mutual understanding and trust on the planet and that it can do that job. The chief advantage of a daily direct exchange of news on the "space cable," the newspaper points out, is that it increases the speed with which events can be covered as well as the "transfer" of news. "For example, the possibility has been created where on the same day one can get materials from distant parts of the world--from Cuba, Vietnam. "All this enables the television studios to plan their schedules better and to make more economic use of equipment. The amount of time it takes for exchanges has been stabilized and the procedure for orders simplified. Finally, quite a few ground lines of communication have been freed for other transmissions. The man-made star serves as a reliable point for 'Intervision,' which is confidently stepping into space."

CSO: 5500/2219

REPORT ON NEW SATELLITE SEA RESCUE SYSTEM

PM261111 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 82 p 6

[Report by A. Gorokhov under the rubric "With the Researchers": "Antennas Near 'Papanin's Hut'"]

[Text] A conference of the international coordinating group for the Kospas-Sarsat project has begun in Moscow. Kospas stands for "space system for searching for ships and aircraft in distress." Sarsat means "search and rescue satellite." The system is being developed by specialists from the USSR, the United States, Canada and France. Apart from those countries' delegations, representatives from Japan, Norway and Britain are also taking part in the conference.

It is planned to launch the first Soviet satellite in the Kospas-Sarsat program in the next few months. This will mark the end of the initial stage of this major international project. When the launch takes place, the picture of the displays at the satellite information reception station located in the suburbs of Moscow, from where I am reporting, will no longer be for training purposes--it will be real.

It will report, to within a few kilometers, if people are in trouble in the Atlantic, the Indian Ocean or the northern seas. But I will not run on ahead.

Some 200 meters from the station's satellite antennas we saw an ordinary hut. Long ago in the thirties, the main administration of the Northern Sea route had its radio center here. The hut was where Papanin's men [reference to Soviet Arctic explorer] lived before their heroic ice epic.

We sat on the mound of earth outside the historic little house and continued talking about Kospas. My interlocutors were L. S. Pchelyakov, chief of a section of the All-Union Morsvyazsputnik Association (this association, which comes under the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, is directly responsible for the Soviet part of the project), and S. I. Pozvadovskiy, chief of the ministry's central communications network.

The talk began with some explanations. The accident notification systems now used in the fleet are based on traditional means of communication, whose range is limited. And that is one reason why approximately 350-400 ships are lost on the planet's seas and oceans every year.

"That is why an attempt is being made to create a global, all-hearing, mobile system for searching for transport systems in distress," L. S. Pchelyakov said. "It consists of four main components. First, emergency radio beacons. These are being installed on all ships, planes and helicopters. Then the satellites: two Soviet and three American. Their orbits are low, approximately 800-1,000 km. The third component is satellite information receiver stations. These will be located in the American states of California, Illinois and Alaska; in Canada (Ottawa); France (Toulouse) and the Soviet Union (Arkhangelsk, Vladivostok, Moscow and possibly Siberia). Lastly there are the control centers in all four countries, where information will come in via ground channels and from where appropriate instructions will be issued to the search and rescue services."

Many people were able to see a model of a Kospas emergency radio beacon at the Svyaz-81 international exhibition in Moscow. I must say it is an astonishing device. The beacon must be lightweight--less than 5 kg, inexpensive, small in size (it is useful for geologists and fishermen--in a word, all who work cut off from the mainland--and for tourists) and powerful, so that the signal can reach the satellite. Let us also take into account the fact that apart from the satellite transmitter, the radio beacon is also equipped with a "homing" radio beacon and a flashing signal. And on top of all that, the beacon must not sink....

"So a signal reaches the control center. What then?" I asked.

"The center's computer is supplied with a so-called 'positioner' every day," S. I. Rozvadovskiy said, "that is, the locations of vessels in the world ocean. The satellite information is, as it were, superimposed on the 'positioner' and the computer sets about seeking other ships close to the site of the [word indistinct]. The necessary instructions are immediately sent out to the captains of those ships..."

One thing must be added here. A satellite was recently launched by the international organization INMARSAT [International Organization for Maritime Telecommunications by Satellites], which unites 37 countries and is concerned with commercial maritime communications. Sweden's Olaf Lundberg, general director of INMARSAT, was in Moscow at the time.

"Kospas-Sarsat is a very promising system," Lundberg said, "and we will await with interest the result of its 'running-in period.' I think in a year or two we will be able to generalize the results of the experimental operation of all the satellite systems--communications and search systems--in order to link them in a single complex."

...Between the trunks of the birches which stand by "Papanin's hut," the antennas of the reception station are clearly visible. We had only one thought--may those antennas have as little work as possible!

INTERVISION TELEVISION DEVELOPMENTS DISCUSSED

PM211145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 82 p 4

[Article by L. Chausov: "'Intervision': A Step Into Space--How the International Exchange of Information Is Carried Out"]

[Text] From 1 February this year the countries belonging to the Intervision [Intervideniye] International Television Association have begun the regular exchange of news via the relay transmitter of a Gorizont series satellite. The satellite, which carries the registration mark Statsionar, operates within the Intersputnik Space Communications System.

The fruits of successful collaboration between television and satellite communications can be seen, in particular in the USSR central television program "Vremya." Up-to-the-minute news information from the fraternal countries' lives is selected for it. In order to see how this happens, let us visit the Ostankino television center.

V. Lyubovtsev, chief editor of "Vremya," reports that with the transition to space wavebands the exchange of news within the framework of intervion increased, contacts with partners in the fraternal countries were strengthened and opportunities for creative cooperation with them expanded. All this enables television viewers to learn more about the life of the Socialist Community countries.

I am told that in 1960, when intervion was set up, the exchange between its participants totaled a mere 572 hours of broadcasting. Of course, that is not much--this was the result of the standard of equipment then available and the lack of experience. At first exchange took place via national land communication lines. Then special channels emerged. But the increase in the volume of broadcasting in the intervion network outstripped the rate of development of international lines. The use of space communications promised to resolve many problems. And these hopes were justified. The satellite, permanently "enrolled" in a geostationary orbit, is on duty around the clock.

In intervision's Moscow studio you can see for yourself that space begins on earth. In glass booths specialists armed with sophisticated hardware carry out a routine space session of international television exchange. "Vremya" will soon go on the air, and every minute counts. It is necessary to make video recordings of the topical items from among the general mass of new material which are of interest to central television and to check the quality of the picture and sound.

The pictures on the screens of the multiple monitors change rapidly. The TV centers of a number of socialist countries in succession are switched into the network, offering their video news for the attention of the participants in the exchange. The working language of intercourse by the space voice communications lines is Russian, and "Vremya's" duty editor, sitting at the studio desk, can communicate efficiently with his colleague in the socialist countries.

In the video recording control room they are intensively preparing to assemble the items. They are carefully rehearsing "linkups" and monitoring image and sound clarity. At last it is the turn of the TV reporters from the production group. That means that "Vremya's" call sign is about to go on the air....

The same day I met G. Yushkyavichyus, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. He has long been involved with the problems of intervision and was formerly director of the technical center of the International Radio and Television Organization (OIRT) based in Prague.

"The intervision screen," he said, "by informing us about the facts of what is now happening in Sofia, Moscow or Budapest, brings us all closer to each other. By uniting the viewers it creates a feeling of fellowship among the fraternal countries' peoples, a sense of belonging to a united family. The volume of information exchanged by the different countries' TV organizations is characterized, as a rule, by the level of their mutual interest in political, economic and cultural life. So the increase in the exchange of programs within the framework of intervision, which entered a qualitatively new stage of development with the launching of Intersputnik, is only natural."

The conversation reminded me of Goethe's dictum: "He who does not recognize his friends in the world does not deserve to have the world recognize him." If you try to apply this idea to the mass media, television does indeed increase the opportunities for the socialist countries' peoples to see each other's lives more clearly. And the entire planet can learn more about our community's deeds and concerns and give it due credit for its desire to develop international contacts.

It is significant that television exchange via intervision totaled approximately 5,000 hours in 1981 alone. The participating countries made contact about 30,000 times. I asked my interlocutor how relations with Western TV organizations are organized.

"Many people in the West are fond of talking about the 'free exchange of ideas and information,'" G. Yushkyavichyus notes, "but what happens in practice? Just take Eurovision—the West European Countries' Television Association. Here are some curious statistics. Last year it offered intervision 6,410 items, of which the socialist countries' TV organizations used 5,440. Over the same period, of the 5,395 items offered by intervision, Eurovision accepted only...415. So that is equal, 'free' exchange for you!"

At the same time, my interlocutor goes on, the experience of a number of socialist countries, and also Finland, which have links with intervision convincingly indicates that television must help create a climate of mutual understanding and trust on the planet, and it can do so.

What are the concrete advantages of the daily, direct exchange of news via the "space cable?" I asked Yu. Zubarev, Soviet representative of the Intersputnik Council and USSR deputy minister of communications. The main thing, he noted, is that the reporting of events and the transmission of news has become more rapid. For instance, it has become possible to receive items on the same day from remote regions—from Cuba or Vietnam. All this enables the TV studios to plan their work schedule better and use equipment more economically. The timing of exchanges has become more stable and the procedure for orders simpler. Finally, many land communications lines have been released for other purposes....

Specialists at the Moscow Space Communications Center also told me knowledgeably about these and other advantages of the innovation. The collective led by A. Gafurov sees every day how space "works" for people. From here, from a room where the constellation of earth stations and the satellites themselves is depicted in symbols on a big map, the rhythm is set, the work of the huge networks of space communications is coordinated and their utilization is programmed and monitored.

Looking at the outspread map, I find the symbol "Statsionar-4"—the very satellite now "suspended" in orbit somewhere over the Atlantic. This star, kindled by human intelligence, serves as a reliable strong point for intervision, marching confidently into space.

Here in the satellite communications systems control room you can see very clearly what benefits can come from outer space when it is exploited for peaceful purposes, for the good of man.

CSO: 5500/2219

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION COMPLETED--Assembly of equipment at a receiving station for signals received by earth satellites from ships in distress has started in Archangel today. Similar stations will be built in Moscow and Vladivostok. At the moment a plan is being discussed in Moscow for a space search system for ships and planes in distress. The system envisages the launching of five artificial satellites which will cover the whole surface of the world's oceans. [Text] [LD150116 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 82 LD]

NEW TELEVISION STATION--A new television station of the 'Ekran' system has been put into service in the (?Khufskaya) valley, high up in the Pamir Mountains in the Gorno-Badakhshanskaya Autonomous Oblast, in order to receive television pictures from Moscow. There are now 12 such stations in operation in the oblast. Assembly of another 'Ekran' television station is under way in the remote Vakhanskaya Valley. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 13 Apr 82 LD]

CSO: 5500//2219

BRIEFS

ICELAND TO JOIN NORDSAT--Oslo--The Icelandic Government has decided to join in the Nordsat project, Norwegian Culture Ministry undersecretary Jan S. Levy announced yesterday. The television satellite project will proceed in the next 2 years and involve Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Denmark will participate as an observer. The cost to the four countries is expected to amount to around 44 million markkaa in the 2-year period. [Text] [PM191037 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 14 Apr 82 p 7]

CSO: 5500/2218

PAPER FAULTS GOVERNMENT'S TELEDATA FEASIBILITY TRIAL

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 6 Apr 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Teledata"]

[Text] When, several years ago, the Telecommunications Services decided to carry through teledata testing, their objective was to find out if the new medium may be marketed in Denmark, who will be using it, and at which times it will be used. However, it is exceedingly doubtful that the testing, which was started some days ago, will provide an answer to these questions.

The feasibility trial involves a limited number of receivers. The persons who have receivers know that they are participating in an experiment, and they may hardly be expected to act as a public who has deliberately decided to acquire teledata for the purpose of using it. To this comes that, so far, the amount of information available for the experiment is limited. The fact that so many information suppliers have expressed a desire to participate in the teledata feasibility trial is due to a desire to participate rather than an endeavor to use teledata. The daily newspapers have thus joined the experiment without having any great illusions as to its possibilities but solely because the newspapers have a natural interest in placing themselves in relation to the media development which the new technology makes possible. The prevailing opinion within the Media Commission, which has discussed the teledata feasibility trial, has been that it must be viewed in a broader social context than planned by the Telecommunications Services. It goes without saying that the very limited scope of the testing prevents it from providing any real basis for evaluating how teledata may conceivably be used.

On the whole, there is reason to believe that the Telecommunications Services have acted prematurely. It is hard to blame them for wanting to work constantly with technical developments, and the regard for their often very long-term planning makes it reasonable. However, the experience from abroad already shows that teledata may not so easily find the place envisioned just a couple of years ago. The British who, at a very early stage, made enormous efforts to place teledata as an important communications factor, have had to recognize that they have been spending much money in vain. It is true that the British Prestel has proved useful to the trades and industries, but it has, on the other hand, been a failure, as far as the general public is concerned.

The Danish feasibility trial might presumably have been postponed without any harm. The Telecommunications Services, however, had been working with it for so long that it had to be started, and it, therefore, is to be hoped that they will be able to give it such content that it will find useful application.

FIRST SATELLITE-TV TRANSMISSION TO FINLAND REPORTED

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 27 Mar 82 p 9

[Article: "Helsinki TV Has Begun Satellite Programs"]

[Text] Finland entered the era of satellite television on Friday at 8:30 pm when Helsinki Television transmitted a program to 74,000 households via satellite.

It is still not a question of regular satellite broadcasting since the individual viewer cannot receive a program transmitted by satellite.

This was the first time that a program transmitted directly by satellite was received in Finland. Previous satellite transmissions have come from Sweden through a link-up connection.

Helsinki Television's first satellite transmission lasted 1 hour and the program included mountain climbing, skiing, flying, an animated movie, and music. The English Satellite Television Ltd., which has begun European satellite programming, has promised that regular programming service will begin in the middle of April.

Until then Helsinki Television will transmit so-called entertainment programming, which has been received in Helsinki since the beginning of March, states Managing Director Heikki Saraste of Helsinki Television. Satellite programs are seen on the information channel.

The satellite broadcasts will for the time being be sent only to Finland since other interested countries such as Norway and Malta, among others, have not reached the same technical level. Also Holland and Belgium are interested in satellite transmissions.

Saraste emphasizes that it is a question of an experimental project by which viewers could be offered one additional service. In addition to the satellite, the continuation of this service also depends on how the satellite programming is received by the public.

Saraste does not want to disclose the kind of programming that will be transmitted by satellite in the future. He states that initially the 1-hour and later 2-hour broadcasts will be composed of movies, TV-series, sports, and music. The programming will also include commercials. Finnish subtitles have not been provided for the programs.

According to Saraste Satellite Television has promised to send advance listings of its programming, which will be distributed to the newspapers.

The state-owned radio has adopted a rather doubtful attitude toward the operations of SATV. Mattsson says straightout that the English company has not been able to announce its programming since it is difficult to accumulate.

"On the whole, quality films or series will not be seen on SATV programming. Popular European programs, disco drivel, sports, and so on will be transmitted via satellite," states Mattsson.

"Not very competitive programming."

The state-owned radio is also amazed that this satellite experiment came up rather surprisingly without any parliamentary discussion. The Postal and Telecommunications Administration granted HTV an experimental license on the basis of its authority to take this matter under consideration. The office also leased a receiving antenna. The Postal and Telecommunications Administration is also experimenting with satellites for its own purposes.

The first actual TV-satellite will be launched from the German Federal Republic in 1985 and the next one will be from France in 1985--86.

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